

HOUSE BILL 7038

By Gant

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9;
Title 49 and Title 67, relative to educational
expenses for school safety plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Fund" means the school safety alert grant fund established by subsection (c); and

(2) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means a county, city, or special school district, unified school district, or school district of a metropolitan form of government.

(b) The department of education shall establish and administer a school safety alert grant program. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to LEAs and public charter schools to establish school safety alert systems in public schools.

(c) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the school safety alert grant fund. The fund is composed of:

(1) Funds appropriated by the general assembly for the fund; and

(2) Gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the fund.

(d) It is the legislative intent that funding in the amount of ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000) be appropriated in fiscal year 2024-2025 in the general appropriations act for awarding grants from the fund.

(e) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year to LEAs and public charter schools. The grants must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. A grant awarded under this section is limited to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per eligible school in a fiscal year.

(f) Moneys in the fund must be invested by the state treasurer for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be returned to the fund and remain part of the fund. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(g) The commissioner may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

(h) On or before January 1, 2025, and by January 1 of each subsequent year, the department shall prepare a report to the general assembly regarding the funds received and payments made by the fund.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect October 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.